

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Moldova
Program Title:	Democratic Transition
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	117-0230
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,582,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,548,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,314,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's democracy program in Moldova includes technical assistance to local governments, legal reform to promote the rule of law, small grants to support citizen participation and social capital development, and a political activism development program.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Support for Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,188,000 FSA, \$85,000 FSA carryover, \$100,000 FSA prior year recoveries). The Local Government Reform Project (LGRP) will expand its training to additional communities. It will introduce new models of service improvement by providing financial support for pilot demonstration projects, which address community priority needs as identified in the community's strategic plan. LGRP will continue to promote transparency and citizens' participation, better local financial management practices, improved reliability and quality of municipal services, and initiation of local economic development. The project will increase the capacity of local governments to advocate on their own and their communities' interests, and to be more effective and responsive to constituent needs and priorities. Principal contractor/grantee: Urban Institute (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,385,000 FSA, \$732,000 FSA carryover). The Citizen Participation Program (CPP) will strengthen local communities, build social capital at the community level, and complement other USAID activities that contribute to the development of new jobs and economic opportunities in rural Moldova. The project will engage local governments, citizen groups, local businesses, and NGOs in community and economic development activities designed to demonstrate tangible benefit from democratic political reform and civic activism. Principal contractor/grantee: International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) (prime).

Support Democratic Political Parties (\$909,000 FSA). The Strengthening Democratic Political Activism (SDPA) program promotes development of responsible/responsive political power, democratic initiatives and leadership skills at the grassroots level, and political party transparency and organizational development at the national level. The objectives of the program are: to create the conditions necessary for local political leadership to evolve in communities; to empower political activists and encourage them to become involved local political structures; and to build democratic practices from the bottom up. Principal contractors/grantees: International Republican Institute (IRI) (prime), National Democratic Institute (NDI) (prime).

Improve Justice Sector/legal Framework (\$600,000 FSA carryover). The Rule of Law program will deliver training and technical assistance in three main areas: advocacy on behalf of human rights, legal association building, and institutional capacity building. This program increases citizen confidence and develops a better understanding of the legal system through consultations on human rights, freedom of speech and association, minority rights, property rights, labor law, family law and privatization. Principal contractor/grantee: American Bar Association Central Europe and Eurasia Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) (prime).

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$100,000 FSA, \$31,000 FSA carryover). The Eurasia

Foundation, in cooperation other international donors, is providing funding and technical support for the non-governmental organization (NGO) Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, an NGO umbrella that is coordinating citizen initiatives to promote a free and fair election process in the upcoming 2005 Moldova Parliamentary elections. In FY 2005, six grants totaling more than \$400,000 will be awarded to local civic organizations engaged in the electoral process, media monitoring and long and short-term domestic election observation. Principal grantee: Eurasia Foundation (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Support for Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,900,000 FSA). LGRP will continue to provide training and technical assistance to help local governments achieve greater fiscal autonomy, efficiency, responsiveness, accountability, and transparency. By FY 2007, LGRP training and technical assistance will be extended to a total of 100 local governments throughout Moldova. The project will also implement approximately 150 demonstration projects that address priorities established in community strategic plans, and reinforce lessons learned in LGRP training. Principal contractor/grantee: Urban Institute (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,395,000 FSA). Moldova's Citizen Participation Program (CPP) will mobilize citizens and community groups to address community needs through a collaborative process, identifying and prioritizing local needs and resources, and developing and implementing projects that engage a broad cross-section of the community. The Community Exchanges/Connections program will provide professional exchanges and business internships in the United States for Moldovan professionals, and business men and women who support professional development, share American values, and encourage mutual understanding and an exchange of cultures. The Peace Corps Small Projects Assistance program will provide small grants to communities working in collaboration with Peace Corps volunteers on community projects. Principal contractor/grantee: IREX (prime).

Support Democratic Political Parties: (\$400,000 FSA). This program will continue to address the issues of political power, democratic initiatives, leadership skills at the grass-roots level, political party transparency, and organizational development at the national level. The program will create the conditions necessary for local political leadership to evolve in communities, empower political activists, and encourage them to become involved local political structures, and build democratic practices from the bottom up. Principal contractors/grantees: IRI (prime), NDI (prime).

Improve Justice Sector/legal Framework (\$619,000 FSA). The Rule of Law Program will continue to strengthen the quality and awareness of legal education and legal reforms, public awareness of the legal profession in a democratic society and judicial reform, and will include an increased focus on anti-corruption and anti-trafficking activities. Principal contractor: ABA/CEELI (prime).

Performance and Results: USAID contributed significantly to advancing the rule of law by informing citizens of their legal rights and responsibilities, providing free legal consultations and representation, and increasing the knowledge of judges, lawyers and other legal professionals. USAID expanded pro bono legal services in targeted regions and provided legal assistance and advice to over 4,150 new clients. Public outreach and education projects, which promote public awareness of legal rights, took place in 246 Moldovan villages, providing advice to 4,367 citizens on how to handle various issues including human rights, social benefits, labor, and environment.

LGRP has introduced community strategic planning, improved financial management, expanded and improved municipal services, and increased transparency and citizen participation. During FY 2004, LGRP began to expand its training and technical assistance to new partner communities. Fifty-four LGRP partner communities received financial management training and adopted strategic plans. As communities become more efficient in the management of scarce local financial resources, they increase their capacity to meet citizen needs and address priorities as established in community strategic plans.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Moldova

117-0230 Democratic Transition	FSA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	9,919
Expenditures	5,444
Unliquidated	4,475
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	4,927
Expenditures	3,243
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	14,846
Expenditures	8,687
Unliquidated	6,159
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,548
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	5,582
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	7,130
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	5,314
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	27,290